

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force its stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. The fact that a subsidiary of the company received a lucrative contract in Iraq only days before this so-called "special news event" was announced makes the whole story even more sickening.

Stations that receive free access to public airwaves have an obligation to serve the public interest. Media consolidation works contrary to this--concentrated access means the company has more leeway to throw its weight around, political or otherwise. Freedom of the press is no longer truly "free" and democracy suffers as a result. I for one want to see and hear about my local community on the radio/TV, not some canned report from somewhere far away.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. The FCC license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.